

NNNNVV ESB030ESA841BRA396

RR RUESBA

DE RUEHDT 2156 1392329

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

R 182253Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7557

INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIS 864

RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 300

BT

**UNCLASSIFIED**

USUN 2156

5/18/76 *5/18/76 R Action*

**Cu 019** *R*

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DAO		
DCM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L GATT		
			DEA		
POL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		FAS		
ECOM			MD		
PO/7		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MILGP		
CO S			PSA		
ADM			ISSO		
ISIS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R & F		
SCI			CRON		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SY			HF		

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, UY

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARRESTS OF URUGUAYAN EXILE LEADERS IN BUENOS AIRES

1. ON MAY 18 ASSOCIATE OF ARMISTICE INTERNATIONAL INFORMED US OF THE ARREST OF FORMER URUGUAYAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTY OFFICIAL GUTIERREZ RUIZ AND FORMER URUGUAYAN SENATOR ZELMAR MICHELINI IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING OF MAY 18 IN BUENOS AIRES. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, BOTH URUGUAIANS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY INDIVIDUALS IN CIVILIAN DRESS BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE FUERZAS COMBINADAS. TREATMENT WAS DESCRIBED AS CORRECT ALTHOUGH PROVOCATIVE LANGUAGE WAS ALLEGEDLY USED (E.G. WHERE ARE THE GUNS?). MICHELINI'S ROOM IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN RANSACKED AND HIS FILES AND TAPE RECORDER SEIZED. ALTHOUGH HIS EYES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BANDAGED, HE WAS NOT OTHERWISE MISTREATED.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LONDON, AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK HAVE ALL BEEN INFORMED OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND WILL MOUNT A CAMPAIGN IN THE COURSE OF TODAY, (MAY 18) TO CONTACT SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADERS AND THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PROTEST THE ABOVE ARRESTS.

3. AI ASSOCIATE SPECULATED THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO ROUND UP IMPORTANT URUGUAYAN EXILES, HE POINTED OUT MICHELINI'S PARTICULAR SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EXILE COMMUNITY.

BENNETT

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

☒ In Part ☒ In Full **DECONTROL**

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

80F178

21/185